



GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

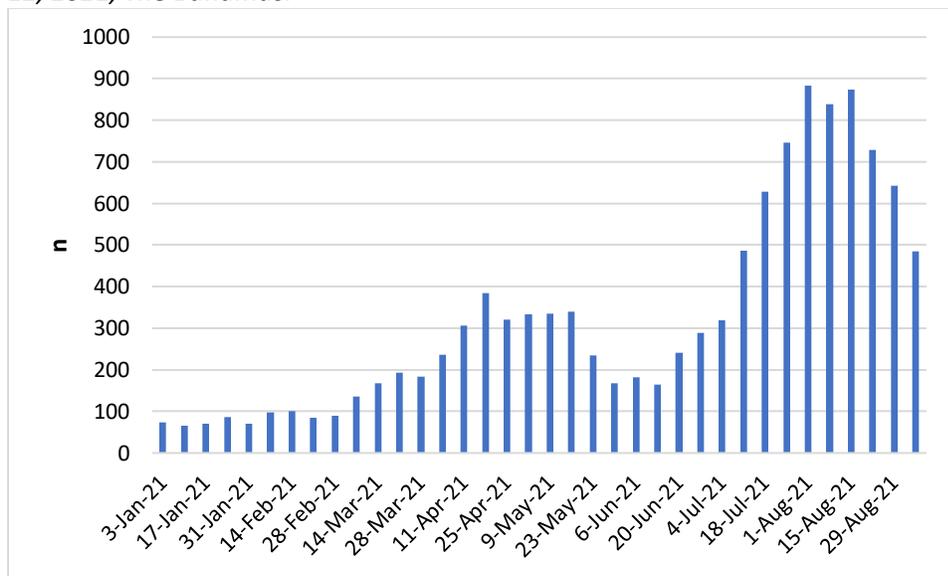
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
14th September, 2021

NOTABLE DECREASE IN COVID-19 CASES

Analysis of COVID-19 data by the Ministry of Health for the period 1st January - 12th September 2021 is beginning to show a decrease in the number of new cases of COVID-19 as the result of the aggressive vaccination campaign and increased uptake of the vaccine.

During this period there were some 11,584 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 302 deaths and on average 54 persons hospitalized per week.

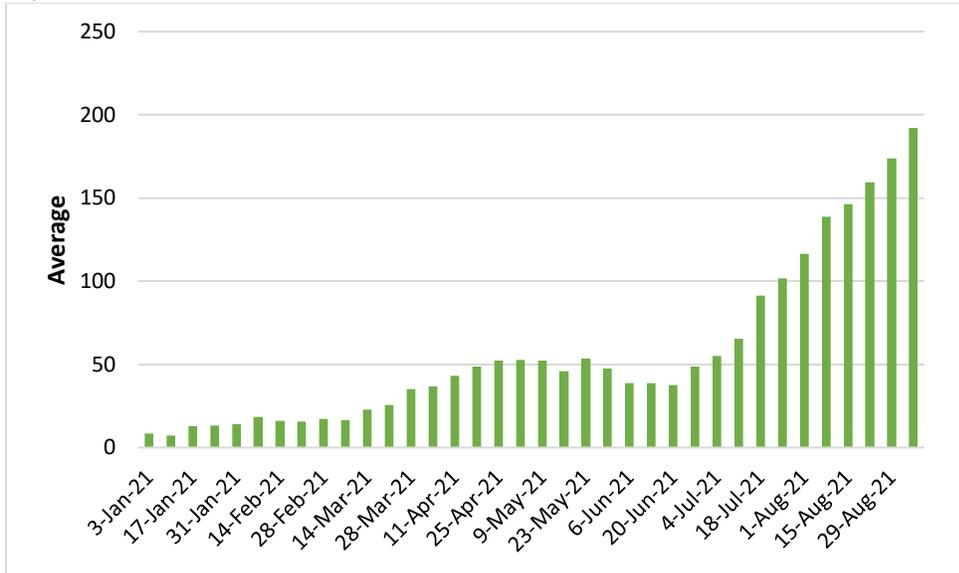
Figure 1. Incident COVID-19 Cases by Week of Specimen Collection Date, January 1, 2021 – September 12, 2021, The Bahamas.



From Figure 1, the graph shows that the number of COVID-19 cases began to plateau during the first two (2) weeks of August, 2021. It is noteworthy to mention that for the next four (4) weeks or four (4) reporting cycles, there was a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases. This result has been the effect of the aggressive vaccination campaign implemented by the Government. It was previously predicted that once a reasonable percentage of citizens and residents become vaccinated, such a result would be experienced.

Even though there is a decrease in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations continue to increase as evidenced by Figure 2.

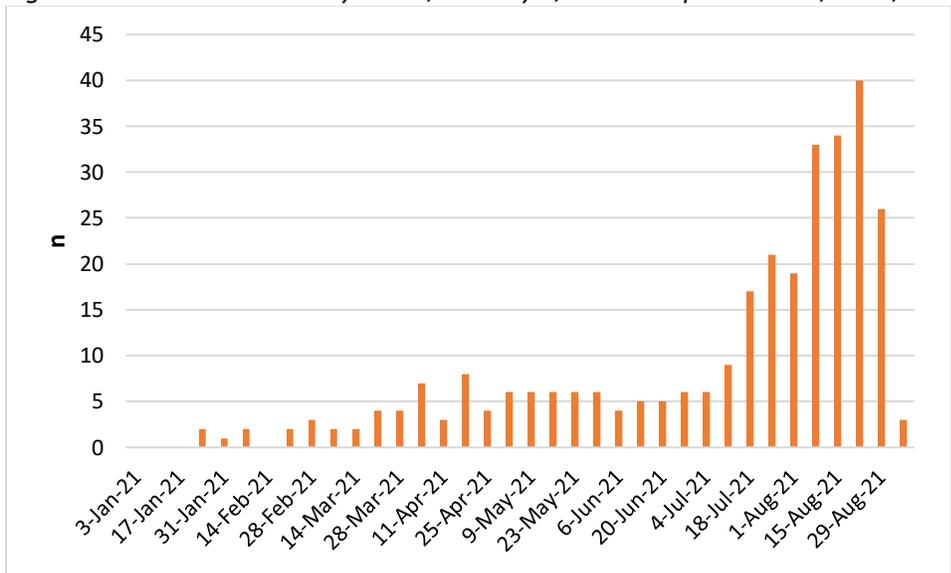
Figure 2. Average number of COVID-19 Persons in Hospital for COVID-19 by Week, January 1, 2021 – September 12, 2021, The Bahamas.



It is expected that as the COVID-19 cases continue to decrease, there will be a decline in the hospitalizations reported.

The Bahamas experienced a peak of forty (40) deaths during the week of 22nd August, 2021, as shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths by Week, January 1, 2021 – September 12, 2021, The Bahamas.



As the cases, continue to decrease, it is also expected that the number of deaths will decrease. The Ministry of Health extends its sympathies to the families who have suffered great loss during the third wave of this vicious pandemic.

As the country enters a General Election, it is important that members of the public to be very vigilant. Everyone is reminded to –

- sanitize hands before, during and after the voting process;
- wear a mask at all times that covers the mouth and nose (this provides protection from inhaling respiratory droplets when persons breathe, talk or shout);
- remain physical distant - six (6) feet apart from others;
- do not gather in groups at the polling stations; and
- greet persons with a wave or nod.

To reduce the likelihood of serious illness, hospitalizations or death, the Ministry strongly recommends all citizens and residents of The Bahamas to be vaccinated. Online appointments are available at vax.gov.bs or walk-up to make an appointment at a vaccination centre near you.

The general public is advised that the Prime Minister will speak to the national COVID-19 situation tomorrow, 15th September, 2021, and the Ministry of Health will host a press conference to provide the public with a COVID-19 Update.

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